

Theory of Literature (A001045)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
 Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1)	Dutch	guided self-study	15.0 h
		lecture	30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Pieters, Jurgen	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Greek)	5	A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin)	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch -Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main	5	A

subject German - Italian)		A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Greek)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Comparative Modern Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

theory of literature, general introduction

Position of the course

This basic course wants to introduce students to the central theoretical concepts used in the fields of literary theory and poetics. How do we define literature? How do we interpret fiction and fictionality? What is semiotic analysis? What do we have to pay attention to when reading narrative texts? What supports the difference between epic, lyric and dramatic? Which role does the reader play in realisation of literary meaning? How do we interpret literary experience. This course is organized around recent developments (structuralism, semiotics) and illustrated by means of practical examples.

Contents

The course consists of 5 chapters and two lessons will be devoted to each.

Chapter 1: What is literature?

How do we define the concept literature theoretically and historically. What are different approaches to literature and how have these evolved through the centuries?

Chapter 2: How does a text relate to the context?

In this chapter the concept fictionality is discussed and an introduction to semiotics is given.

Chapter 3: How do we analyse a text?

This chapter consists of an introduction to narratology (the method to analyse narrative texts) and offers a set of instruments to analyse poetic texts.

Chapter 4: What is the importance of the author in literary communication?

In this chapter we examine how the different schools of the 20th century literary science have filled in the role of the author. We also take a look a the concept of author from a historical point of view.

Chapter 5: What is the importance of the reader in literary communication?

In this last chapter, the reader is centralised. To what degree does the reader determine the interpretation of a text and how is the reader's response structured in the text?

Theories of literature; semiotics; pragmatics; syntax and semantics of narratives; syntax and semantics of poetry and drama; intertextual and extra-textual structures; reading literature; judging literature.

Initial competences

To be acquainted with the terminology of literary analysis.

Final competences

- 1 To reflect critically on the reading and analysing of literary texts.
- 2 To be acquainted with the analytical set of instruments and the most important concepts of current literary theory.
- 3 To be capable of reflecting in a conceptually based manner on the functions of literary texts.
- 4 To be able to analyse and interpret narrative texts on the basis of a narratologic set of instruments.
- 5 To be able to make a synthesis of a theoretical texts with respect to the theory of literature.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture in which the student is expected to take notes complementary to the basic outline of the syllabus. Personal reading and processing of 10 scientific texts and essays, which are discussed in class.

Learning materials and price

There is a course book and a text book: J. Pieters, *Beste Lezer, een inleiding in de algemene literatuurwetenschap*, available at Academia Press. Price: 29 euro. Cost: 29 EUR

References

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical (100%)

Assessment form

Final written exam

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
 2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
 3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy